

From the moment he was born, J.T. had a twinkle in his eye that let everyone know: "Look out world, get ready for me!" Growing up, J.T. loved little league baseball and was a pretty good player. He would hit home runs and then casually run all the bases—it seemed much more important to him to have fun than being seriously competitive about the game.

School was much the same way for J.T.. He would use his smile and eyes to talk his way out of doing homework, but somehow managed to remain the teacher's favorite.

J.T. was a talented musician, singer, songwriter. He taught himself how to play the drums and guitar. Composing lyrics came naturally to him and was always writing new verses or ideas down on fast food napkins and scraps of paper.

You could always find J.T. sitting outside singing and playing his guitar, playing his drums in the basement, or jamming at friends' homes and local music stores.

After about a year of struggling with addiction, J.T.'s body could no longer handle the abuse, shame and sadness. He passed on September 13, 2007. As J.T. continues his new adventure, he is greatly missed by family and friends and will be remembered by all who knew him as a free spirit; the spark that lit up a room with his smile and fun loving ways, a loving son and brother, caring father, and a friend and helper to all who were lucky enough to be touched by his life.

RICHARD THOMAS LONG, JR.—CANTON, ILLINOIS

Richard was his mother's firstborn and only son, born on February 22, 1986. He was known to many as "Jr." and "Duney." Jr. was smart and a computer buff. Growing up in Canton, Illinois, he enjoyed listening to metal music, mastering video games, fishing, swimming, and teasing Ms younger sister, Jessica.

Jr. loved spending time with his family; he had two boys, Ethan (age 13) and Sabastian (age 2). They were his pride and joy. He absolutely loved watching Ethan play baseball.

Jr. started using drugs in high school and battled an opiate addiction from that time until his death. Richard Thomas Long Jr. lost his 13-year battle to opiate addiction on February 8, 2015.

APRIL LOUIS—BUMPASS, VIRGINIA

April was a loving soul with a huge heart. She was drawn to and good at helping others but she just didn't know how to help herself. April's smile lit up any room and her bubbly laughter was sweet music to her mother's ears. The happiest day of April's life was when her daughter was born. April had been told that she wouldn't be able to have children and when she found out she was pregnant, her mother hoped April would finally be encouraged to get help for her substance use disorder. Unfortunately, April's daughter was born addicted to drugs and had to be weaned off with medication. To protect her granddaughter, April's mother had to take her granddaughter away from her own daughter. April loved her little girl, but heroin loved April more.

April battled addiction for over seven years. During that time, she was in and out of treatment facilities, drug courts, and jail. Sadly, April spent the last 18 months of her life incarcerated. When she came home, she seemed determined and positive about her life to come.

For the first time in many years April's mother had hope, faith, and trust in her daughter. She also wasn't afraid anymore when her phone rang. But just three weeks after April was released from jail, April's mother got that phone call, the one call parents fear the most—April had died from an overdose of pure fentanyl and was found on the floor of the bedroom at her grandmother's house.

April died on March 12, 2014. She was 30 years old and her daughter she left behind was only four. The hardest thing April's mother ever had to do was to tell a four-year-old that her mommy had died and what that meant. April's mother loves and misses her beautiful daughter every day. Her whole family misses April and they will for the rest of their lives.

KEVIN "KEV" CAROTENUTO—PROSPECT PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

Kevin "Kev" Carotenuto was born on May 3, 1993. By the time Kevin got to middle school, he was a talented athlete and very involved in sports, however, school just didn't click for him. Kev started showing signs of ADHD very early on. His mother tried to get him an Individualized Education Program (IEP) but was denied, so she put him in counseling. Kev turned to drugs to cope with the stress of his struggles.

Kev was arrested shortly after his 18th birthday for robbery of three houses in his family's neighborhood. He didn't commit the crimes alone, but wouldn't snitch on his friends. He received an 18 month sentence in county prison and \$30,000 in restitution. Both Kevin's parents visited him and put money on his books the entire time he was in prison.

Six months after his release, Kev started using heroin. He was in and out of countless treatment facilities until he was sent back to jail in February of 2015. Kev was caught using heroin in a public bathroom and was arrested for violating probation. He was sentenced to seven months in county jail.

Kev was released the Monday before Thanksgiving to a local halfway house. He was put on blackout for seven days and then was allowed to go out for four hours at a time. Kevin worked for the newspaper union as an extra so he would call in daily for work. The Thursday after Thanksgiving Kevin was booked for an 11 pm to 5 am shift.

Kev told the halfway house that he had work but proceeded to contact a cellie from jail who came to pick him up. When Kev arrived back at the halfway house he tested hot for suboxone. He was kicked out immediately and the halfway house never notified his family. Kevin was on the streets for a week before he came clean with his mother.

Kev said it was time for him to be a man and he would get himself to rehab. He was approved for 26 days of treatment. Seven days before his release, Kev's mother requested a family meeting with his counselor. The counselor informed her that on Monday the aftercare specialist was going to have a conference call between Kev, herself and the counselor. Monday came and went and no call, so Kev's mother started leaving messages with the counselor. She called every day and left messages—no response.

January 7, 2016, came around and Kev said, "Ma, come get me, I got my coin." Off she went to pick him up. He came home so happy and ready to stay clean. He went to probation the next day where he asked the probation officer (PO) to see him twice a week to keep him honest, which the PO did for one week. The following week the PO told Kev he didn't have time to see him so often. The PO ordered Kev to complete IOP, so on January 8th he called and was told the first opening was 22 days away. Kevin went 22 days with no treatment except for NA meetings and a bible study group of men in recovery.

On the 29th of January Kev went to IOP for his evaluation and when he came out he said, "All good, my first session is on February 1st." On February 1st Kev's mother woke up and went into Kev's room and found him sitting on the side of the bed with his head in his hands and his hoodie on. She said his name two times and got no response. She

then called 911. When she went to touch Kevin's shoulder, his stiff body fell to the floor. His mother saw the needle 1/2 full of clear liquid. She went to move his hoodie to get to his neck to check his pulse and all she saw was the side of his face—purple and cold. He was dead. A mother's worst fear comes true.

Kev passed away on February 2, 2016, from an overdose of poisoned heroin.

TRIBUTE TO NICK'S RESTAURANT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nick's Restaurant of Des Moines, Iowa, for being recognized for serving Iowa's 2016 Best Breaded Pork Tenderloin by the Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA). The designation has been bestowed on one lucky Iowa restaurant each year since 2002.

This honor was one owner Nick Iaria has worked for since he opened his doors, he told the Iowa Pork Producers Association. They chose Nick's Restaurant over 384 Iowa businesses because of its unique taste. Nick's tenderloins are prepared in "queen" and "king" size, and are known for their made-to-order quality. The pork tenderloin is freshly seasoned, floured, battered, breaded and then cooked in a fryer designated only for tenderloins. Nick's serves over 1,000 tenderloins every week.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Nick's Restaurant for receiving this distinguished designation. Their dedication to frying the perfect pork patty has put smiles on the faces of Iowans all across the state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Nick's Restaurant and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE BENJAMIN EDWARD MARCONI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Detective Benjamin Edward Marconi of the San Antonio Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 20th, 2016.

Detective Marconi was born in the City of San Antonio on January 8th, 1966 to James and Minerva Marconi. In the mid-1970s, Detective Marconi and his family moved to Floresville, Texas, where he lived until he graduated from Floresville High School. After receiving a business degree from Texas A&I—Kingsville, Detective Marconi later joined the San Antonio Police Department, where he served for 20 years.

Throughout his life, Detective Marconi was always held in high regard by his family members, friends and colleagues for his dedication to serving the public as well as his unwavering care and compassion for his family, whom he loved dearly. His friends and family cherished